

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 204. If present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 204.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 188 I mistakenly voted “aye” when I meant to vote “nay”.

HOUSE BILL TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 450 LEXINGTON AVENUE IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK, AS THE “VINCENT R. SOMBROTTO POST OFFICE” INTRODUCTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office,” to honor this historic letter carrier leader and all the work he did as the president of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC).

Mr. Sombrotto was one of the most significant labor leaders of his generation. As president of NALC from 1978 to 2002, Mr. Sombrotto worked to increase letter carrier wages, moving them from poverty level to middle class. To this day letter carriers benefit from Mr. Sombrotto’s commitment to the wage increases.

In 1992, he began the NALC food drive which has developed into the country’s biggest one-day food drive. Held on the second Saturday every May, it has to date, provided more than 1.2 billion pounds of food for banks in communities throughout the United States, with letter carriers collecting non-perishable food individuals and families leave in their mailboxes.

As a firm believer in civic responsibility, Mr. Sombrotto and the NALC worked with the United States Postal Service and emergency services organizations to establish Carrier Alert. This nationwide program allows carriers to perform heroic and humanitarian deeds on their routes including saving lives, finding missing children, looking over the elderly, and stopping crimes.

Mr. Sombrotto deserves our respect for the work he has done to help the lives of letter carriers, and their families, across the country. That is why I would like to rename the United

States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office.”

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL MALL REVITALIZATION AND DESIGNATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last week while Congress was out of session, we had the kickoff for the second season of “Lunchtime Music on the Mall,” which brings local and regional musicians to the National Mall to perform during the lunchtime hour, giving visitors and particularly our federal and other office workers downtown a break from the pace of business in Washington and an opportunity to enjoy their National Mall. The performances, featuring amateur city and regional residents, are sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the National Park Service (NPS), in conjunction with my office. To preserve and enhance the National Mall, a priceless space, I am reintroducing the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act. Until the Trust for the National Mall was established in 2007, the National Mall was Washington’s most neglected and underutilized federal property, despite being well-known and treasured. The Trust for the National Mall is already making a noteworthy and important difference, and its plan will give the Mall the majesty it deserves. In the meantime, there is much that can be done, from defining the Mall’s official identity for the first time to adding low-cost basic amenities. My bill authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to expand the boundaries of the Mall where commemorative works may be located, requires NCPC to study the commemorative works process, and requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan within 180 days of passage to Congress to enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities and cultural experiences on the Mall.

I worked closely with NCPC and other agencies in drafting the bill. The bill would give NCPC the responsibility and necessary flexibility to designate Mall areas for commemorative works and, for the first time, to expand the official Mall area when appropriate to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions.

In addition, tourists and workers downtown should be able to walk to the Mall and hear music and other entertainment, from string quartets to solo singers during lunch at attractive tables where good—not fast—food is available. Residents of the city and region should be able to find space for fun and games on the Mall, beyond the space between Third Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bordered by world-class cultural institutions, the Mall need not continue to be reduced to a mere lawn with a few—too few—old, ordinary benches and a couple of fast food stands until the expansive work the Trust for the National Mall is completed. The plan by the Secretary of the Interior required by the bill would ensure chairs and tables for people who bring lunch to the Mall and the presence of cultural amen-

ities. The NPS has my thanks for implementing and indeed sponsoring the part of the bill that calls for cultural amenities with Lunchtime Music on the Mall, which began last week.

Lunchtime Music on the Mall is a good start to bringing the Mall alive during the workday. With the necessary imagination, making the Mall an inviting place with cultural and other amenities is achievable now.

The NCPC is well on its way to meeting the bill’s requirement for an expansive, 21st-century definition of the Mall, particularly now that the Trust for the National Mall is doing such important work. Frustrated by continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials on the already-crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPC to devise a Mall presentation plan. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to create a reserve area—a no-build zone where new memorials may not be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups for placement of commemorative works on what they view as the Mall.

However, recognizing the need for more commemorative work sites, NCPC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) released a National Capital Framework Plan in 2009, which identifies sites near the Mall that are suitable for new commemorative works, including East Potomac Park, the Kennedy Center Plaza, and the new South Capitol gateway. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. I appreciate that NCPC and the CFA work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new commemorative works. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into our local neighborhoods to increase the number of tourists who visit them, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer tours of historic District neighborhoods. The off-Mall sites for commemorative works also complement development of entirely new neighborhoods near the Mall, particularly with the passage of my bills that are redeveloping both the Southwest and Southeast Waterfront.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY ILHOM NEMATOV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend, His Excellency Ilhom Nematov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States.

Since 2010, His Excellency Nematov has served his country as Uzbekistan’s Ambassador to the United States. Prior to his assignment to the United States, His Excellency Nematov served as Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the Russian Federation. From 1997–